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Citizens' Bulletin

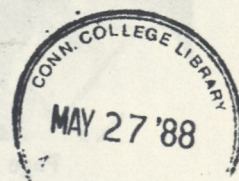
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The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



Poison Ivy

looks just
like this.

Citizens' Bulletin

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Cover by Michael D. Klein

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Editor's Note

The beauty of Connecticut is low-keyed. It doesn't jump out at you, like a technicolor desert sunset or the elemental power of a jagged California coast. In low-keyed Connecticut, you have a choice; if you don't feel like being immersed in spectacular beauty at any given time, why, you don't have to.

The other night I went out to my mailbox to drop off a letter. At the moment — and, of course, it's *all* at the moment — I live in a nice place, green and quiet. The past winter was spent inside, warm, in a long-term study of the NBA. Trips into the great outdoors were minimized, and so I assumed my mail drop would be fast, out and right back in. Instead, I got outside and the night was just gorgeous. It was about 50 degrees, and a soft, gentle, other-worldly fog had settled over the neighborhood. A few streetlights glowed softly, and an invisible moon gave the sky a light gray tint. I got rid of the letter, and stayed out. Alone. Quiet.

Shortly after, my next-door neighbor, back from some late errand, pulled in. "Beautiful night," I said. "Oh, yes," he said. We stood there together, feeling the fog, listening to the quiet. And then, from somewhere far away, you couldn't be sure where because the sound bounced around in the fog, you could hear the call of geese — lots of them. My neighbor looked up. "They're flying right above us, behind the clouds. Pretty high up, I'd say."

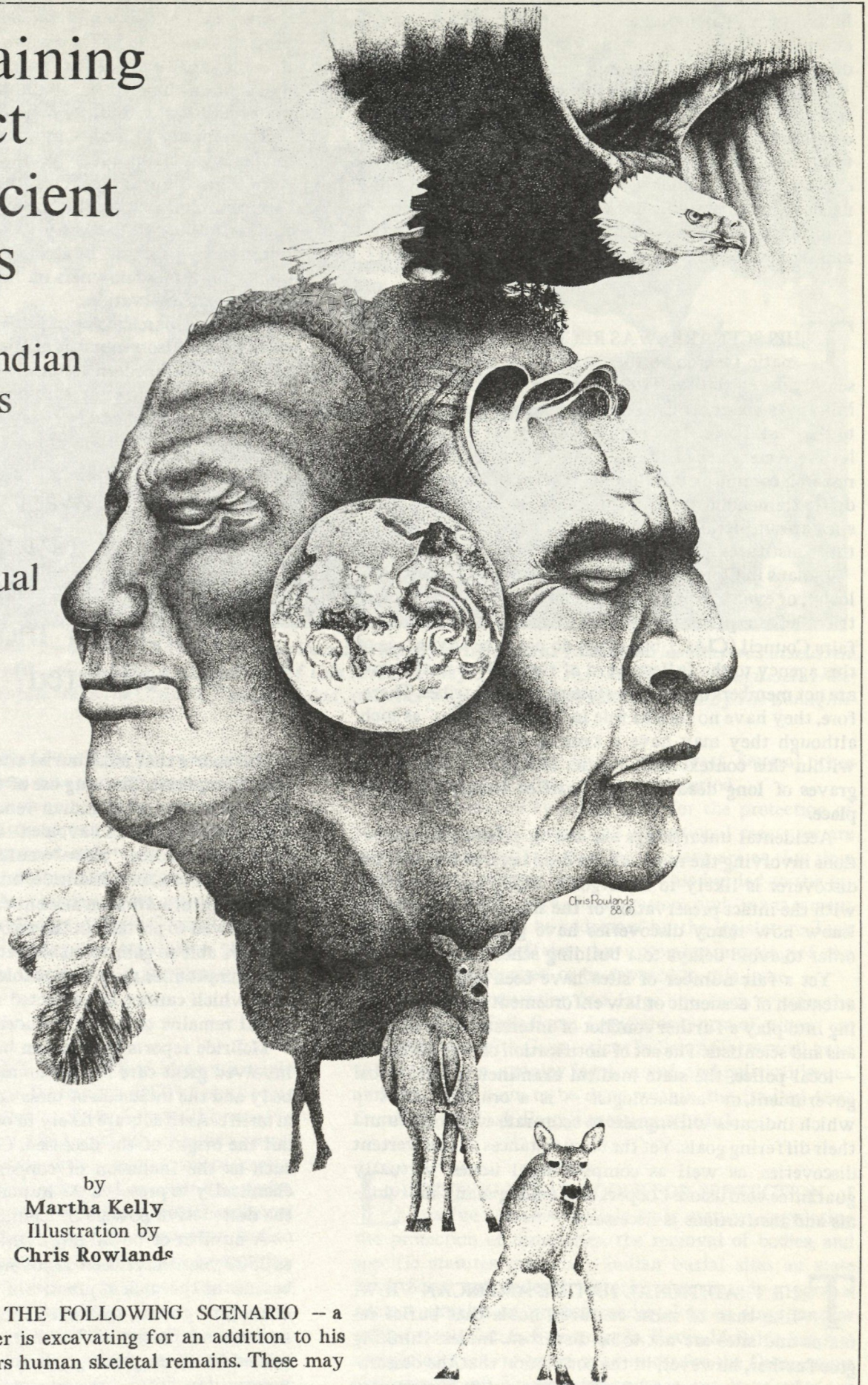
Connecticut.

Hope you enjoy this low-keyed issue of the *Bulletin*. Oh, and, uhh, try to avoid the poison ivy.

R.P.

Maintaining Respect for Ancient Peoples

Ancient Indian burial sites present a cultural, moral, and spiritual challenge.



by
Martha Kelly
Illustration by
Chris Rowlands

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO — a homeowner is excavating for an addition to his home and discovers human skeletal remains. These may

turn out to be the ancestors of a long extinct Connecticut Indian tribe. The Indian origin of the burial site may be evident to a lay person or may require a trained eye to discern.

What will happen from this point? Will the excavation continue uninterrupted? Will the remains be rudely disinterred, so much rubble, or will they be turned over to a museum for display before the curious? Will the evidence of the customs, diet, and health of the indigenous people embedded in the site be destroyed, or painstakingly translated by scientists? Will the native moral view be respected and allowed to express itself?

THIS SCENARIO WAS RECENTLY POSED in a dramatic fashion to the members of the General Assembly's Legislative Task Force on Indian Affairs by Mikki Aganstata, a Cherokee and a governor's appointee to the Task Force. This is an issue of great concern to the Native Americans of the state, as well as to the scientific research community. While their interests and goals may differ tremendously, both agree that ancient native burial sites are vulnerable to inadvertent destruction and that this constitutes a tragic and irreparable loss.

Indians in Connecticut are not a wealthy and powerful lobby, or even a unified group. The state's five recognized tribes have representation on the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council (CIAC), but often do not take advantage of this agency to the fullest. Most of the Indians in the state are not members of the five state recognized tribes. Therefore, they have no formal role in "Indian affairs" as such, although they may have a keen interest in them. It is within this context that a quiet struggle to protect the graves of long dead and unidentified Indians is taking place.

Accidental unearthings are the by-product of excavations involving the removal of a deep layer of soil, and the discoverer is likely to have goals which are in conflict with the intact preservation of the site. It is impossible to know how many discoveries have gone unreported in order to avoid delays to a building schedule.

Yet a fair number of sites have been brought to the attention of academic or law enforcement agencies, bringing into play a further conflict of interests, those of Indians and scientists. The act of notification of any authority — local police, the state medical examiner, a local tribal government, or archaeologist — is a crucial first step which indicates willingness to cooperate with others and their differing goals. Yet the circumstances of inadvertent discoveries, as well as complex legal issues, virtually guarantee confusion. Cooperation among many individuals and institutions is necessary.

THE TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VIEW, like that of most cultures, holds that burial remains and sites are not to be disturbed. Indian thinking goes further, however, in the conviction that the desecration of burials negatively affects the entire community

and is destructive of the community's relationship with the world. Contemporary Indians are charged with the protection of all Indian ancestors. Still, some Indians feel that the tradition will be respected with the careful removal of endangered remains and their reinterment in a protected location with appropriate ceremony.

The sanctity of burial grounds does not prevent contemporary Indians from having a keen interest in the lives of their ancestors. For example, Kevin McBride has been commissioned by the Mashantucket Pequot to conduct archaeological inquiry of sites on their Ledyard reservation. This will be accomplished with the cooperation of private landowners on lands which were part of the original reservation.

McBride, an archaeologist from The University of Connecticut and also a member of the Legislative Task Force, points out that modern archaeologists generally no longer seek out burial sites for excavation, out of deference to native values. Rather, they search out settlement sites.

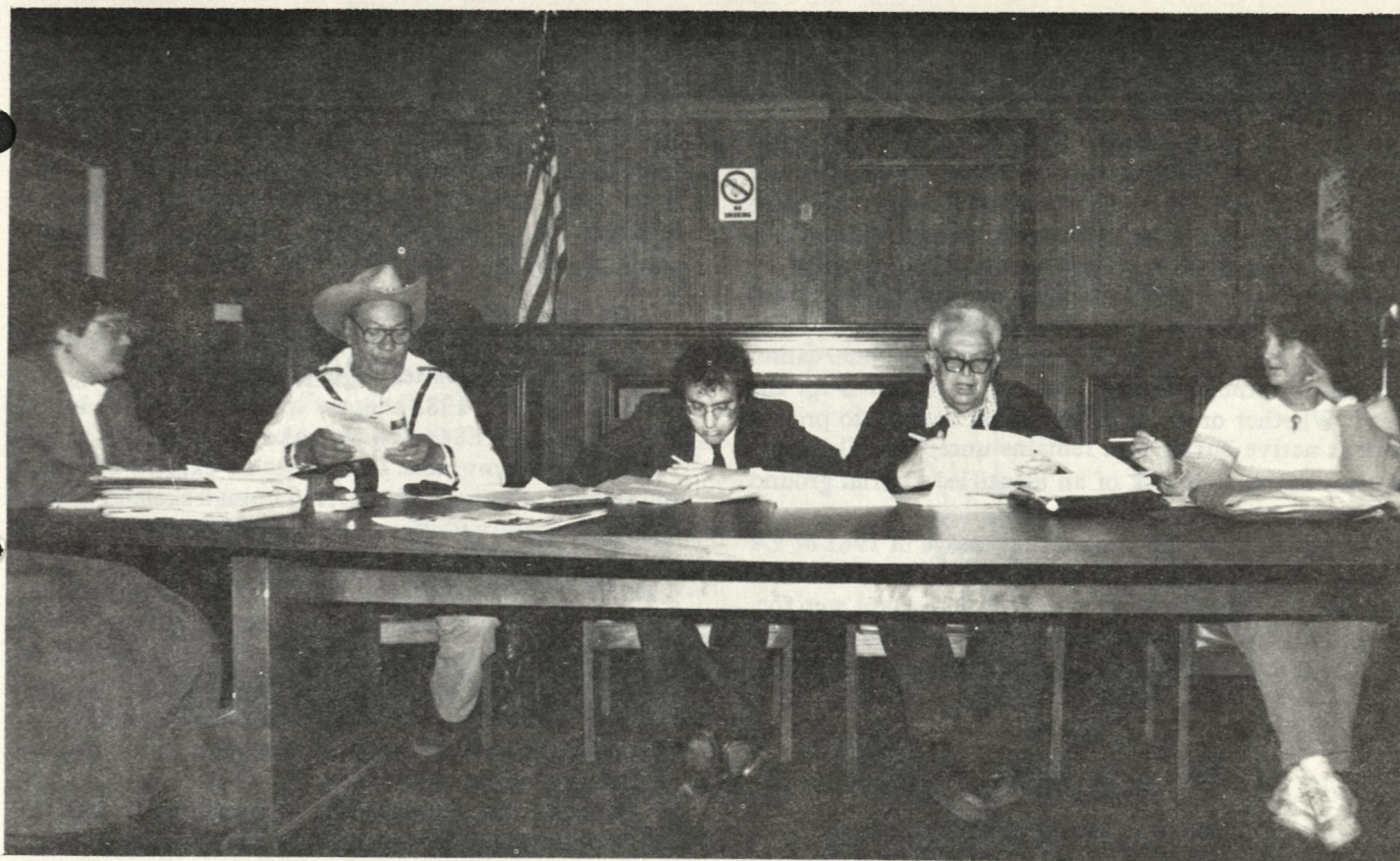
Will excavations continue uninterrupted or will the native American moral view be respected?

He reports that most burial sites were "elaborate mortuary complexes. The long use of the same site and lack of disturbance by other Indian remains suggests that they were well known and avoided. By anyone's definition," concludes McBride, "these would be sacred sites."

Nevertheless, says McBride, burial sites are rich repositories of information on ancient cultures. If archaeologists are allowed to partake in the recovery of threatened sites, they are able to gain valuable data. This attitude suggests that compromise may be possible, allowing the study of sites which cannot be protected intact, yet releasing the actual remains to native authorities for reburial.

McBride reports that Indian burial practices generally involved great care in the ceremonial preparation of the body and the inclusion of tools and supplies for use in the afterlife. Artifacts are likely to be uncovered which point out the origin of the deceased. Certain specific practices, such as the inclusion of copper items in graves, acted chemically to preserve the human remains, counteracting the destructive powers of Connecticut's acidic soils.

A number of burial sites which may date back as far as 2500 years have been discovered. This has been, in part, because of the ancient practice of cremation. Although the cremation process destroyed most of the body, some remains were preserved. Further, such graves were accompanied by stone grave goods which could survive to the present day. There is evidence, says McBride, that such



At a recent meeting of the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council, the subject of ancient Indian burial sites was discussed. Pictured here, left to right, are: Martha Kelly, author of this article, Chief Piper, of the Golden Hill Paugussett tribe; Bart Sayet, governor's appointee to the Council; Samuel Molod, governor's appointee, and Paulette Crone, of the Schaghticoke tribe.

sites contained both food and tools for use in an afterlife.

During the 1980s, there was an improvement of communication and cooperation among those interested in accidentally discovered native remains. A 1981 discovery in Madison was initially turned over to the state medical examiner's office, and remained there nine months while negotiations ensued. The remains were eventually released to the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council for reinterment. This was following the conclusion that the remains were of native origin and approximately 300 years old.

TWO LARGE SPLINT BASKETS of Mohawk origin wait in the office of Ed Sarabia, DEP's Coordinator of Indian Affairs. Eventually, the baskets will be used in reinterment ceremonies. In 1983, the DEP set aside a parcel of state land in Farmington as a reburial site of native remains. It has been used on several occasions in quiet, dignified, and unpublicized ceremonies which restored remains to a final resting place. The American Indian Archaeological Institute, a private research and education facility in Washington, Connecticut, found that it had native skeletal remains in its possession. Out of respect for native cultures, AIAI sought the reburial of the remains, but legal restrictions caused them to turn to the CIAC for assistance. In 1985, the remains were reinterred in a na-

tive religious ceremony on the state tract. Several other reinterments took place in the same period.

What means are available now for the protection of native burial sites? Legal and educational measures are possible, yet many felt that legal means are at this time scattered and perhaps inadequate. This has led to the inclusion of burial site preservation and management among the issues to be addressed by the legislative Task Force on Indian Affairs. An upcoming meeting of the Task Force is expected to be devoted to this issue.

The task of education is a large one, even within the context of the Task Force. Legislators, most of whom are unacquainted with Connecticut Indian Affairs, will have to be briefed on complex legal, moral, and political issues, and this will have to be done within the limited time frame of the Task Force's meeting schedule.

EXISTING LEGAL TOOLS FOR PROTECTION of native remains include state statutes regulating the protection of cemeteries, the removal of bodies, and specific statutes protecting Indian burial sites on state land. State and federal historic preservation programs protect remains on projects undertaken on state land or with federal funds. For example, Kevin McBride has just completed a six- to seven-year study for the Connecticut Department of Transportation as a result of planned

work on Route 6. McBride calls the outcome of this a "major contribution to the understanding of Connecticut's prehistory."

Indian and archaeological lobbyists agree that many undetected sites exist on private lands where they are frequently destroyed in the process of economic development. Statutes protecting cemeteries were not designed for the protection of those of ancient, unknown peoples.

In an effort to protect Colonial and Revolutionary era burial grounds, the state enacted in 1984, and modified in 1985, PA 85-319: An Act Concerning the Preservation and Care of Ancient Burial Places and Memorials for the Dead. Whether or not this law could be used to protect ancient native burial sites remains uncertain. Their unmarked nature and lack of an identified "burial ground authority" might hamper its application.

From the native viewpoint, the passage in 1981 of PA 81-242, which was codified as Sec. 47-66e and 66f of the Connecticut General Statutes, was an important step forward. This legislation created Connecticut's only explicit protection to inadvertently discovered Indian burial sites.

"By anyone's definition, these would be sacred sites."

Kevin
McBride

Its first part mandates an inventory of state lands known or thought likely to contain Indian burial sites. The second part requires any state agency which intends to excavate in the location of a known burial site, or inadvertently discovers one, to delay the planned work and notify the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council. Provision is made for the removal and reinterment of remains under the directions of the CIAC.

In 1983, the CIAC, through actions by its chairman, Stilson Sands, a Mohegan, followed this up with efforts to educate at least six state agencies on their responsibilities under this legislation. Chairman Sands requested the cooperation of these agencies in avoiding the need for reburial by avoiding known sites in their construction and development. Indications of the success of this effort include the 1983 relocation of a planned parking lot by a state technical college.

Yet this legislation made no provision for the study of remains and may have dissatisfied the research community. The archaeological lobby, however, has succeeded in obtaining funding recently for the office of state archaeologist, a position which had existed unfunded since 1963.

The position has just been filled by Nicholas Bellatoni of The University of Connecticut.

Lack of funding has slowed the implementation of effective policy. The protective legislation affecting state land made no provision for funding of the effort to inventory burial sites on state lands. Furthermore, the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council, although considered a state agency, is not funded in any way.

TWO USEFUL APPROACHES to the preservation of native burial sites might be learned from neighbors. Massachusetts in 1983 adopted specific protective legislation, House Bill 6844, which makes an effort to reconcile the divergent interests. It outlines an explicit obligation on the part of anyone discovering human skeletal remains to "immediately notify the medical examiner of the district." Further, "any person, corporation, agency, or authority of the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions" is required to cease any activity which jeopardizes the integrity of the site. The Bill establishes an orderly sequence of inquiry and notification to preserve the site, if possible, undisturbed, provides for inquiry by the state archaeologist, and for notification of the Commission on Indian Affairs.

If excavation is deemed the only solution, it is to take place under the supervision of the Commission on Indian Affairs. The state archaeologist and the Commission on Indian Affairs share determination of whether skeletal analysis is to take place. The responsibility for reinterment rests with the Commission on Indian Affairs.

Although Connecticut has in place a "Council" rather than a "Commission" on Indian Affairs, and a comparison of the two institutions is beyond the scope of this article, the legislation adopted in Massachusetts deserves careful consideration.

David Poirier, of the Connecticut Historical Commission, has brought to the attention of the CIAC another preservation strategy. The Office of Public Archaeology of Boston University published, in 1985, the *Rhode Island Burial Survey*, a comprehensive review of historic burial sites, with an eye to their preservation.

Such a survey, if completed in Connecticut, and coupled with the legislation paralleling that of Massachusetts, would be another reasonable approach to the protection of endangered cultural resources. Preservation restrictions, allowed in Massachusetts under C. 184 — Section 31, are contractual agreements which prevent activity which would threaten a historically significant site.

Massachusetts uses both methods of protection. Aren't Connecticut's cultural heritage and, indeed, its relationship to the universe just as valuable and deserving of protection?

Martha Kelly was appointed by Governor William A. O'Neill to the Connecticut Council on Indian Affairs. She has been a frequent contributor to the Citizens' Bulletin.

No witches' brew is complete without it.

The Deadly Nightshade

by
Gale W. Carter
Illustrations by
Caryn Alleva



Jimson Weed
(*Datura stromonium*)

THE NIGHTSHADE, or potato, family (*Solanaceae*) is a large group of plants found principally in the tropics. It includes herbs, shrubs, and small trees. It consists of 85 genera and nearly 1700 species.

Many members of this family are familiar because we eat some part of the plants, use them for medicine, or enjoy them as ornamentals. Some of the common representatives of this family include the eggplant, pepper, potato, tomato, tobacco, petunia, and Jerusalem cherry — a popular ornamental houseplant. Few plant families provide us with so many economic benefits.

HOW DO WE DECIDE that a plant is a member of the nightshade family? We can't always

tell by its common name. For example, enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea quadrisulcata*) is not a nightshade, but a member of the evening-primrose family. Someone goofed when this plant was named. In the early days this happened quite often, so sometimes classification got a bit muddled.

Learning the general family characteristics of a plant is helpful in reaching a correct identification. Let's take a look at some of the family characteristics of the nightshades and a few of the representative species that are found growing wild in the Northeast.

- The flowers have five united petals that vary in appearance, depending on the genus to which they belong within the family. They may be trumpet-shaped, bell-shaped, or wheel-shaped.



Jerusalem Cherry
(*Solanum pseudo-capsicum*)

- The ovary generally has two compartments.

- The fruit has many small seeds and is either a capsule or a berry, depending on the genus.

- The leaves are usually alternate and are often irregularly toothed. Some species have leaves that are divided (compound).

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON nightshades in our area is bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamera*). This species was originally a native of Europe but has become naturalized. It is a twining vine that sometimes becomes woody. The five-petaled purple flowers are wheel-shaped with five yellow anthers that fuse around a single pistil and appear cone-like. Each anther opens at the top by two pores.

Bumblebees carry out what is known as "buzz pollination" by grabbing the anthers and shaking them in short jerks to empty the pollen out of the tiny holes in the anthers.

The plant is in blossom from June to September, with the fruit being a red berry. Its oval leaves are unique, often having ear-like lobes at their base. Bittersweet nightshade is found in thickets and in clearings around buildings.

Solanum, the genus name for this plant, comes from the Latin word "solamen," which means "comforting." This alludes to the sedative properties found in some species in this genus. *Dulcamera*, the species name, is a combination of two Latin words meaning "bitter" and "sweet." Both roots and berries, if tasted, first seem sweet and then bitter. All parts of the plant contain the poisonous alkaloid solanine. Although they may be harmless, the ripe berries should not be eaten, as they may cause nausea.

The Indians used the dried berries and stems for the treatment of nervousness and to induce sleep.

Bittersweet nightshade is sometimes referred to incorrectly as deadly nightshade. The true deadly nightshade is belladonna (*Atropa belladonna*), which belongs to another genus in the nightshade family. This is only occasionally found in the Northeast, as it is a European species. This is the plant that ladies of the Mediterranean area used, squeezing the juice from the berries and applying it to their eyes to make the pupils larger. It contains atropine, an alkaloid used by eye doctors to dilate the pupil prior to an eye examination.

Two other species found in our area that resemble bittersweet nightshade are American nightshade (*Solanum americanum*) and black nightshade (*Solanum niger*).

Bittersweet nightshade is the only species with leaves that have ear-like lobes and fruit that is red; the other two species have black fruit. A cultivated strain of black nightshade has been introduced into gardens. This is called "garden huckleberry" because of its tasty fruit.

HORSE-NETTLE (*Solanum carolinense*) is a plant covered with many prickles, but it is not related to true nettles. The white flowers are wheel-like, resembling other members of the genera *Solanum*, and the arrangement of its anthers around the single pistil is similar. Blossoming time is from May to October. It is found growing in fields and waste places.

The yellow berries contain small amounts of solamine, but the berries, when dried, were used by early herbalists for the treatment of nervous ailments.

A species similar to horse-nettle, buffalo-burr (*Solanum rostratum*) has more prickles, and its flower is yellow instead of white. The fruit is a berry, with a prickly covering that gives it a burr-like appearance. It is found growing in fields.

MATRIMONY VINE (*Lycium halimifolium*) may appear either as a woody vine or a spreading shrub. It has drooping branches that are often spiny. The leaves are alternate and toothless, while the flowers are greenish purple and funnel-shaped. It has spread from cultivation to roadsides, thickets, and waste places. The fruit is a red-orange berry.

It was once believed that if the plant grew near a home, it would bring on marital problems. The leaves and young shoots may cause poisoning if eaten by farm animals.

GROUND CHERRY (*Physalis heterophylla*) is an erect or spreading plant with stems that have sticky hairs. The egg-shaped leaves are alternate with shallow teeth. Its bell-like flowers are greenish-yellow with brown centers. The flowers appear from June to September. Its fruit, sometimes called "husk tomato," is a yellow, many-seeded berry enclosed loosely by an inflated calyx. They may be eaten raw or cooked. Farm animals are sometimes poisoned by eating large amounts of the leafy tops or the unripe berry. This species appears in dry woods and open areas.

The genus name *Physalis* is derived from the Greek word "physis," which means "bladder." This is a reference to the papery enclosure for the seeds. The species name *heterophylla* is a Greek word meaning "vari-leaved." This is to indicate the wide variation in the shape of the leaves.

JIMSON WEED, or thorn apple (*Datura stramonium*), with its coarse leaves and purple or white funnel-like flowers, may reach a height of seven feet, but is usually much smaller. The flower blooms from June to September. Its fruit is a spiny capsule with many black seeds. This species is widespread throughout the United States and is commonly found in fields and disturbed areas.

All parts of the plant contain dangerous alkaloids and are inedible. It has hallucinogenic effects on the body, and has a powerful effect on the nervous system. However, the drug stramonium, which contains several alkaloids, is found in the dried leaves and is used in medicine.

The name jimson weed is a corruption of Jamestown, where it was first observed by early settlers.

BLACK HENBANE (*Hyoscyamus niger*) is a many-branched, ill-smelling plant with a clammy, hairy stem. It usually grows to a height of six inches, but occasionally is much taller. The leaves are alternate and heavily toothed. Its large flower is dull yellow with purple veins and is funnel shaped.

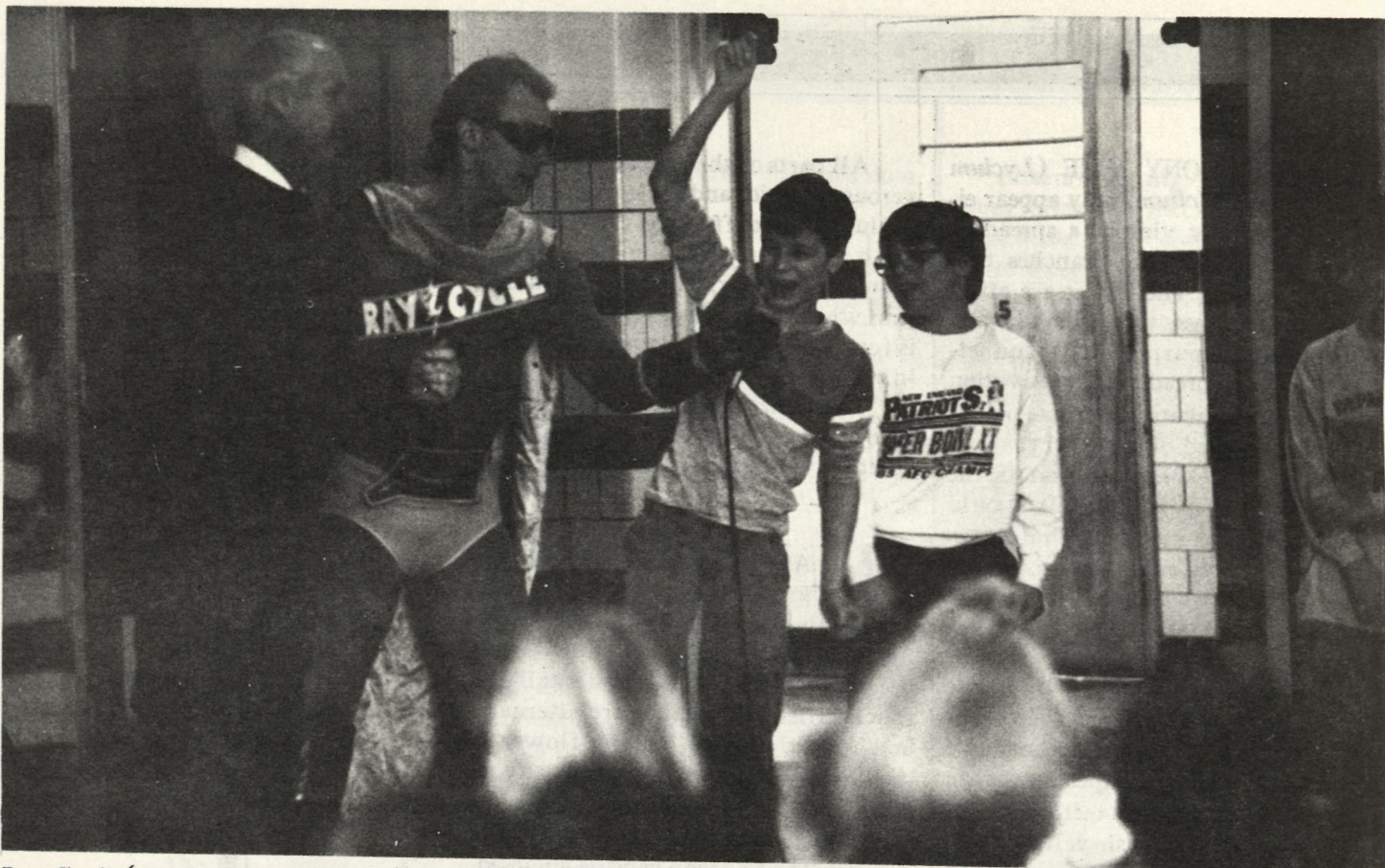
The flower blossoms from June to August. The fruit is a capsule enclosed in an inflated bladder-like calyx. Black henbane is a native of Europe but has been introduced to North America. It grows in fields, along roadsides and in disturbed areas.

Its genus name comes from the Greek word "hyos," meaning "of a hog," and "cyramus," meaning "bean." However, it seems to have little to do with hogs. The species name is from the Latin, referring to its poisonous black seeds which contain the alkaloid hyoscamine. Henbane, its common name, refers to the detrimental effects on chickens when they feed on the seeds. Children and livestock have also been known to be poisoned.

Caution. Because of the increased interest in natural foods, it is particularly important to avoid eating any plants that contain poisonous alkaloids. Even the sprouts and green sunburn spots on the skin of a potato can be toxic if eaten.



Ground Cherry
(*Physalis heterophylla*)



Ray Cycle (AKA Chris Rowlands) is the DEP's new super hero. His appearance at the Outdoor Discovery Weekend delighted campers of all ages.

Calling All Campers

by
Laura J. Blake
 Environmental Intern

HOW MUCH DO WE REALLY KNOW about the resources of our country, or even of our own state of Connecticut? How often do we get a chance to learn about the outdoors, or what is offered in our state parks? The DEP's Information and Education Unit has been holding an Outdoor Discovery Program for eight years for just this purpose. The program is designed to offer the public activities and programs on timely environmental issues. It does this through education and entertainment, using various parks and state facilities as backdrops. The year-long calendar of events has also included instruction on outdoor sports, such as cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and back packing.

AVERY POPULAR part of this program is the Outdoor Discovery Weekend. This winter there were two weekends, both held at the Channel 3 Country Camp

in Andover. The weekends involved outdoor workshops given by members of the Information and Education Unit, as well by naturalists and teachers from around the state. For example, Barbara Clark, a well-known Connecticut naturalist, offered a workshop on foraging for edibles. The obvious benefit of this workshop was that it resulted in a tasty and very inexpensive meal. The biggest hit of this foraging meal was a special recipe for spicebush bread.

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER Michael Simonds gave talks and demonstrations on basic and advanced nature photography. The Lutz Children's Museum was represented by Sue Craig and Amy Day who spoke about animal tracks, explaining why and how different animals walk through the forest. Children were taught how to recognize animal tracks which increased their understanding and enjoyment of the outdoors. Another

workshop was given by Gary Turn, the program coordinator for the camp, who spoke on how exciting the outdoors can be if you understand it. George Babey, of the DEP's Bureau of Fisheries, spoke on ice fishing. The clinic proved informative, even if the melting river did not permit much practical experience.

Steven Fish, assistant director of DEP's I and E Unit, demonstrated survival techniques and fire building. Chris Rowlands and Caryn Alleva gave art workshops. In Alleva's group, a large mural was done by the children. In Rowland's workshop, children were taken out to look at trees and plants, and encouraged to see them as living, growing beings.

E NVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR Alberto Mimo gave his own workshop on the story of *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess, and on the environmental importance of trees. In his workshop, letters were written to the World Bank regarding the vanishing rainforests and to representatives of the state regarding Connecticut's rapidly depleting landfills. These letters were later read to the entire camp where many decided to add their own names to those already signed to the documents.

A T THE FEBRUARY CAMPOUT, most of the workshops went off without a hitch. The weather, however, was not as conducive to winter activities as it might have been. Sled-racing and ice-sculpting were traded for an indoor program of music with a message. The DEP's new superhero, Ray Cycle, delighted campers

of all ages. The Ray Cycle Program, also known as "Recycle Mania," was created and directed by William "Billie B." Brennan, a recording artist and performer nationally known for his dynamic approach to teaching children about the environment. Ray Cycle is performed by Chris Rowlands, a protege of Billie Brennan.

Ray Cycle has been going out to Connecticut's school systems to inform children about recycling and conservation. His songs involve subjects such as recyclable items, encouraging the audience to seek out these items and find new ways to get use out of them.

In addition to all this, talks were given by group leaders on the diminishing resources of the state. Connecticut is now trying to find a way to cope with the fact that landfills are rapidly being filled to capacity. Recycling is one approach that is being taken in addressing this critical problem.

C AMPERS AT THE TWO-DAY OUTING are always receptive to the new information provided. Barbara Clark has taught her food-foraging workshop for almost seven years at the camp. According to Clark, people who come to the camp gain both knowledge and enjoyment. Those who have already attended the Outdoor Discovery Program are kept up to date on new programs by mail. The *Citizens' Bulletin* and *The Hartford Courant* carry notices of upcoming events. For further information on the DEP's Outdoor Discovery Program, please write DEP, Information and Education Unit, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, or phone (203) 566-8108.



Teaching kids to understand and respect nature is the goal of the DEP's Outdoor Discovery program.



If you know what you're doing, it's possible to live very comfortably off the land.

Call Me Nick

A meeting with the new state archaeologist

by
Chris Horan
Writing Intern, English Department
The University of Connecticut



At the State Capitol in Hartford recently, Governor William A. O'Neill met with Nicholas F. Bellantoni, Connecticut's new state archaeologist. Bellantoni presented an archaeologist's trowel to the governor in the company of legislators and archaeologists who assisted in passing legislation to help preserve the state's archaeological treasures. Left to right are: State Representatives Jonathan W. Pelto (D-54th) of Storrs; Richard D. Tulisano (D-29th) of Rocky Hill, Teresalee Bertinuson (D-57th) of Melrose; the governor; Bellantoni; and Cece Kirkorian of Greenwich, an archaeological consultant with Historical Perspectives, Inc. The state archaeologist is affiliated with The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at The University of Connecticut in Storrs.

THIS IS THE STORY of Connecticut's new state archaeologist. "Call me 'Nick,'" he smiles.

Nicholas F. Bellantoni, a native of New York State, grew up on Franklin Avenue in Hartford. He graduated from East Catholic High School in Manchester, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968. He served four years as a signalman on the flight deck of the *U.S.S. Wasp*, an aircraft carrier. Then he attended Central Connecticut State University, receiving a master's degree in biology, and became interested in archaeology.

"I've always been fascinated by prehistoric peoples, but I never thought of it as a professional career until I took an introductory course at Central," says Nick. So he took more courses and, to specialize, went to The University of Connecticut, where he earned a second master's degree and a doctorate in anthropology.

Nick credits several teachers as being instrumental in forming his career, including Fred Warner and Michael Park at Central, and Bob Dewar, Chuck Spencer and Doug Jordan, the former state archaeologist, at UConn. He specializes in osteoarchaeology, the study of bones from archaeological sites. Such bones or their fossils can reveal food patterns and the general health of early peoples.

In August, 1987, right after receiving his doctorate, Nick applied for the new position of state archaeologist, a post which is affiliated with The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at The University of Connecticut. After a nationwide search by a committee of archaeologists from around the state, Nick was chosen as the best candidate, and became the state's archaeologist in December, 1987.

Described as "just the right person" by David Thompson, president of the Greater New Haven Archaeological Society, Nick radiates a contagious energy. His responsibilities as state archaeologist include the identification and preservation of our state's archaeological resources and the coordination of a statewide campaign to increase public awareness of Connecticut's archaeological history.

When he talks about a dig or shell middens or the laboratory analysis of human bones, he is forceful and exuberant. He explains that most archaeologists study the artifacts of earlier peoples to learn how cultures change through time. But his specialty, the study of skeletal remains, is also significant because it shows how the human beings themselves were changing.

"The human skeleton is not a static instrument — it is constantly responding to nutrition, stress, and exercise. From an examination of skeletons you can tell the age and sex of the individual, the disease states from epidemic diseases to anemias, as well as pregnancy or poor nutrition. You can also find evidence of trauma such as broken limbs," he notes.

This aspect of Nick's research is done in close cooperation with Connecticut's Native Americans, the Indian Affairs Council, and DEP's Office of Indian Affairs, because many human skeletons come from ancient Indian burial sites that have been unearthed. These must be returned to

"If we don't
know the past,
we won't
be prepared
for the future."

William A.
O'Neill

the earth in a manner consistent with tribal traditions. "We only excavate Indian burials when they are in immediate danger of destruction," says Nick. Most are found by non-archaeological activity such as when a backhoe tips them over. "We'll go in and, working with the Indians, preserve as much as possible."

AS THE STATE'S ARCHAEOLOGIST, Nick coordinates the preservation of archaeological sites with the Connecticut Historical Commission, the medical examiner, and other state agencies. He answers numerous queries from the public. He goes to town officials to encourage the passage of ordinances to protect archaeological resources that lie within that town's boundaries. Currently, no state law protects archaeological sites, and only Greenwich and Westport have ordinances to assess archaeological resources.

Nick also wants to teach the public more about our archaeological history. "We need to dispel the misperception that archaeology is only for exotic places like Egypt or Pompeii," he says. "We need to teach people that the archaeological resources in Connecticut are part of this state's heritage. Once a bulldozer plows through a site, that's it — that history is gone forever."

"We're trying to send out the message that, because we have assumed responsibility for this land, we are responsible also for its culture, its heritage. Some of these Indian sites are 10,000 years old. The Europeans came here roughly 350 years ago. These archaeological resources are a real part of Connecticut's history," he says.

Nick attends meetings with town officials or local groups several nights a week, and is busy throughout the day at excavating dusty archaeological sites or investigating potential sites for preservation.

"We're still trying to get the office on its feet, and the key to that is to start letting people know who we are," he says. Working on a limited budget, the state archaeologist has worked to increase visibility through contact with the state's archaeological societies, state agencies, municipal soil conservation commissions, and town planners across the state.

In fact, it was the Coalition on Connecticut Archaeology (COCA), comprising public interest organizations around the state, that supported legislation for a new, state-funded Office of State Archaeologist. Groups in COCA are: American Indian Archaeological Institute, Archaeological Society of Connecticut, Connecticut Archaeological Survey, Inc., Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Historical Commission, Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut Preservation Action, Connecticut Sierra Club, The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historical Perspectives, Inc., Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Public Archaeological Survey Team, Inc. (PAST), Raber Associates, and the State Office of Indian Affairs at DEP

A number of legislators were active in supporting legislation for an Office of State Archaeologist, and a bill was introduced in 1987 by State Representatives Tere-salee Bertinuson of Melrose and Richard D. Tulisano of Rocky Hill. State funding began in FY 1988.

"So far, the feedback has been amazing, and that reinforcement is encouraging," says Nick. "The word is getting out."

NICK EXPLAINS that Connecticut is currently losing roughly 125 sites per year due to vandalism, erosion, and development. Nearly 65 percent of Connecticut's archaeological sites are in immediate danger. Clearly, Connecticut has made a significant commitment to preserving what is left of our state's historical culture.

These resources — nature's archives — will continue to be lost unless a strong effort is made to save them. Recently the new state archaeologist met Governor William A. O'Neill. "I want to wish you the best in your new office," said the governor, "because if we don't know the past, we certainly won't be prepared for the future." ■



Nick Bellantoni, the new state archaeologist, looks at artifacts from an 18th century Indian house structure on the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Reservation in Ledyard.

The DEP's Mystery Lady

by
Robert Paier

YOU'RE probably not going to run into Rita Maroncelli-Duclos by chance. The only way you're going to see her is if you go out specifically looking for her. Like the wildlife it is her job to manage and protect, Rita has learned the advantage of keeping a low profile, out of sight. So, unless you know just what you're doing, and understand the territory, you're not going to see her. The Mystery Lady of the DEP has decided she can be more effective playing it that way.

"Wildlife issues often get very emotional. In public hearings, for example, I can accomplish much more by submitting brief, written testimony, and then watching from a distance. That way, I avoid polarizing people, and possibly making things worse. I think that ultimately, after they have digested all information, people are capable of altering their positions in a spirit of good will and cooperation. It is possible to make friends where you once had adversaries."

Case in point: There was recent controversy in regard to the bald eagle, one of the 350 species of non-game animals Rita is directly concerned with. (Of the 424 species of animals in our state, 75 can be hunted or trapped.) At this time, while there are numerous secondary locations, there are just three primary locations in Connecticut which the bald eagle has used for habitat. Recently, plans were submitted by a developer to a town commission for the purpose of developing one of those areas. The first, passionate reaction of many people was, "No, you can't do that." This, says Rita, was also her feeling. "But, after I studied all the elements of the situation more careful-



Rita Maroncelli-Duclos of DEP's Wildlife Bureau keeps a low profile but gets the job done.

ly," says Rita, "I found that that it might be possible to work out a compromise which would satisfy both the need for economic growth and the long-term protection of the eagle habitat." Rita would like to think that her clarity and perspective probably did much to help resolve this difficulty.

RITA'S OFFICIAL TITLE IS "Non-harvested Wildlife Program Biologist," in charge of endangered species. Much of her time is spent talking to individuals and conservation groups, and keeping up on anything which might affect Connecticut's wildlife. "The town commissions," says Rita, "are all important. They are made up of volunteers who try to do the best and most conscientious job they can. As a professional biologist, I render as much assistance and information as I can to them." That is not all of Rita's job, however. She is involved in planning long-range non-game wildlife programs; she is working on a bald eagle survey; she oversees a reptiles and amphibians program, where a major concern is the threat to the rattlesnake population in the state; and she is always working on educational programs to increase the public's level of

wildlife awareness. For example, over the past three years, more than 20,000 people have visited the Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area.

"All wildlife biologists, game or non-game, are really doing the same thing, which is to manage wildlife — given the socio-economic realities of the state — for the long-term benefit of man and the wildlife itself. In Connecticut, this job is difficult because the human population is generally very mobile, and people often don't become attached to the land. Also, there is great pressure from development. Most people look out their window, see the chickadees, and assume they will always be there. In fact, maybe they won't."

It is obvious that Rita enjoys her job, and feels she is doing something worthwhile. "The great feeling of satisfaction comes when people get together and resolve difficult issues. We really can have a world that is good for people and for the animals."

RITA is a New York City girl. She grew up there, and still has a love for the city. It was as a school-girl in the Bronx, with the Bronx Zoo just a few subway stops away, and her mother working at the New York Botanical Gardens, that Rita decided she wanted to be a naturalist. She was fortunate enough to get to know many reputable scientists through her family's association with the Gardens and her employment there through high school and college. At first, her plan was to stay within the academic community and do research. "Then, while I was a biology student at Fordham, I understood that research was too far removed from the real world. And it seemed to me that most people didn't take notice of the real world around them. So, I thought the nicest thing would be to continue to learn about plants and animals, but also increase people's awareness of nature." And then Rita smiles. "And I've been very lucky, because that's exactly what I've been doing."

After Fordham, Rita went on to do graduate work in wildlife biology at The University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She was quickly hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and assigned to the state of West Virginia. She spent three years there, and then came to work for the Connecticut DEP. Now in her sixth year, Rita says she continues to find the work exciting and rewarding. "It's like a chess game, anticipating moves, figuring blocks."

The job, she says, is also fun. "The strangest call I ever had was from a lady who said her house was possessed

by a demonic spirit. She said an alarm was regularly tripped, with no other evidence of entry, and she found what looked like blood on her walls. She had been to the police and to a parapsychologist, with no success." Rita remembered from her studies that bats' urine was similar in appearance to dry blood. She asked the woman if she had a fireplace. She did, and that case — and the fireplace — was closed.

RECENTLY MARRIED, Rita spends her free time puttering around her house and garden, reading,

and being a movie fanatic. It is her job, though, which continues to be her greatest challenge. Future projects include a cooperative effort between the DEP's Bureau of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rita will also be drafting legislative proposals which will affect wildlife in the state, and, most particularly, endangered species.

So, because of the way she operates, the chances are you won't see the DEP's Mystery Lady. But, she's out there, doing the job, being a focal point of compromise and reason, and making sure the chickadees are still around. ■

For Your Information

Report on Hazardous Waste

by
Leslie Lewis
Citizens' Participation
Coordinator

THE CONNECTICUT Hazardous Waste Management Service recently released *A Connecticut Hazardous Waste Generation and Management Status Report*, as required by Section 22a-134cc of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Service is an independent, nonregulatory, quasi-public corporation established to promote the appropriate management of hazardous waste generated in the state.

Some of the major findings of the report include the following facts:

- Connecticut businesses currently generate approximately 175,000 tons of hazardous waste annually, 15 percent less than in 1983.
- Since 1983, the amount of hazardous waste disposed of in or on

the land decreased by over 50 percent. The amount of hazardous waste destroyed in incinerators, cement kilns, and industrial boilers doubled.

- In the year 2005, demand for commercial recycling, treatment, and disposal facilities is estimated at 97,000 tons per year, 10 percent greater than current demand. As little as five percent of the waste generated annually will require land disposal.

In a transmittal letter to Governor O'Neill, Service Chairwoman and Executive Officer Kathleen Golas noted that most of the hazardous waste generated in Connecticut is managed in state, but a portion of the waste is shipped to out-of-state land disposal facilities or incinerators not available in Connecticut. Development of these types of facilities in Connecticut, however, would require state subsidies or importation of waste from other states.

Although projections in the report indicate a slight increase in the generation of hazardous waste in Connecticut, this will be due to an increase in the cleanup of contaminated areas. Increases in waste generation are expected

to be offset by continued waste reduction and improvements in waste management practices.

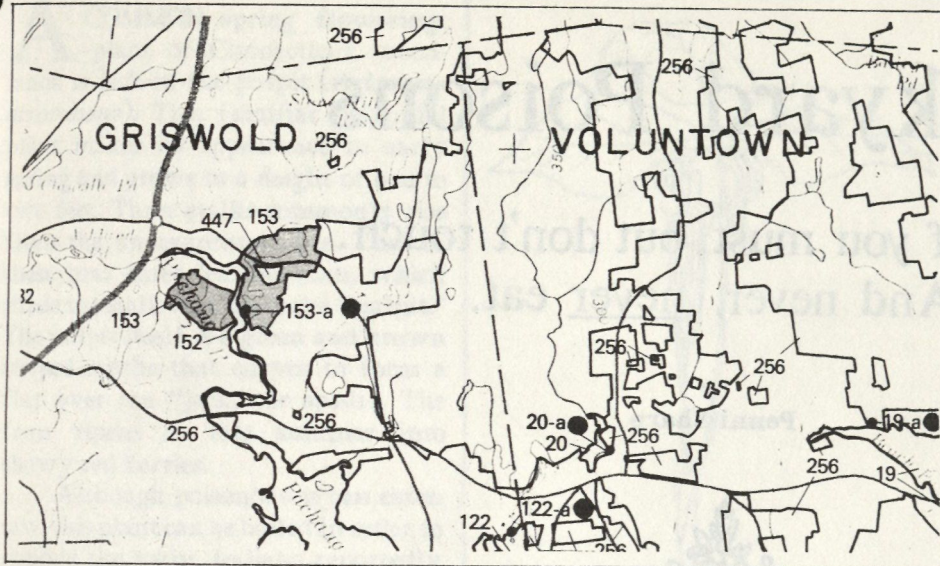
The report's key recommendations for improving hazardous waste management in Connecticut include expanding the Service's nonregulatory program of technical and financial assistance to generators; promoting continued management of hazardous waste as an interstate business; and promoting the development of new, environmentally sound and economically viable hazardous waste recycling, treatment, and disposal capacity in Connecticut.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the report, contact the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service, Suite 360, 900 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 or call (203) 244-2007.

ON JUNE 7, 1988, the Hazardous Waste Management Section of the DEP and the Connecticut Hazardous Management Service will co-sponsor *A Hazardous Waste Management Conference: Focus on New Regulations and Programs*. Topics will include tank regulations, land

(Continued on page 23.)

Map of the Month



You Own Property You Didn't Even Know About

by
Alan Levere
 Senior Environmental
 Analyst

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND acres is an awfully big backyard. I used to think the half-acre lot I once took care of was big, but, boy, does it ever pale in comparison!

Now, of course, no single individual really owns 200,000 acres, at least not in this state. It seems that most folks end up with your basic backyard, and if you're in a condo or an apartment, maybe not even that. But, that's okay. There's a new map that shows exactly how and where to take advantage of that much land — and never have to mow one square inch of it.

IT TURNS OUT THAT the DEP recently gathered the necessary information to prepare this new map, and the 200,000-acre figure was the magic number.

Happily for those of us with the basic backyard or less, the results of the information have been published as the DEP Property Map. This new

collection of information depicts and names over 450 accessible DEP sites spread out over more than 500 separate properties. And all of these are broken down into seven different management categories.

This means that whether you prefer to hike in the state forests, bird watch in the wildlife sanctuaries, boat or fish the lakes and ponds, walk the state trails, or just relax in the state parks, there are probably many more places for your enjoyment than you know.

THE BREAKDOWN of the management categories goes like this: state parks including state trails, and state park scenic preserves; wildlife management areas, including wildlife sanctuaries; fish management areas, including DEP-owned water bodies (lakes), salt water access (public boat launches), and fish hatcheries; state preserves, including historic preserves and natural areas; state forests, flood

control areas, and a miscellaneous areas category.

SINCE THE MAP is color-coded, each area is easy to recognize. Also, it is easy to pick out similar areas of interest as well. The 200,000-acre total represents over 310 square miles of DEP lands. And they've been set aside for all the people of Connecticut. With over 500 different locations available, no one in the state is ever more than seven miles from a site of some sort.

The map covers the whole state on a sheet that measures about 44 by 55 inches, and is at a scale of 1:125,000 (one inch equals about two miles).

Each location is clearly printed on the map, and greater detail can be obtained by the use of the U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute topographic maps. For ease of reference, the corner ticks for each topo appear on this map.

Finally, a reference map for 200,000 acres of state-owned lands is in print. There are 200,000 acres of enjoyment out there, and there has to be at least one spot that is just right for you. So much for yard work.

THE DEP PROPERTY MAP is quite an inventory. There is no other reference that in one place documents the natural areas, state park trails (including some of the old railroad beds), and so many other items of recreational interest. It can be ordered by sending \$10.00 (\$18.00 for two) to cover the map, tax, and handling to: DEP-NRC, Map Sales, Room 555, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

It is important to note that many states in the Northeast, including Connecticut, have initiated aggressive programs to acquire additional property. These programs were undertaken because much open land is being lost to development. The commissioner of the DEP has gone on record stating the long term goal of increasing DEP properties by 100,000 acres. ■

Backyard Poisons

Look, if you must, but don't touch.
And never, never eat.

by
Penni Sharp

THE WEEKS FROM MID-APRIL through May are eagerly awaited by wildflower enthusiasts, for this is the peak for the blooming of many of the wildflowers that grace Connecticut's woodlands. These flowering plants take advantage of the available sunlight by blooming before the trees are fully leafed out and the forest floor is darkened.

Many people have special locales to which they return each year to witness a display of wildflowers. I make a point in late April each year to visit a certain hillside that is carpeted with Dutchman's breeches. By summer, on that same hillside, no trace of the flowers remains.

A GOOD NUMBER of spring flowers have poisonous properties. In Connecticut, out of some 2,100 vascular plants, approximately 160 can be considered poisonous. Of these, 60 flower between February and May. This is a time of stress for most animal species in temperate regions because food supplies have dwindled over the winter. There is a theory that plants with toxic properties are avoided by hungry herbivores, and thus enjoy a competitive advantage over plants without toxins.

All poisonous plants are, by definition, harmful to some degree. In



False Hellebore
(*Veratrum viride*)

some species, the entire plant may be poisonous, while others are poisonous only in certain parts, such as berries or leaves. For some species, the poisonous principle persists throughout the year; for others, it reaches a peak and then tapers off. Certain plants, when consumed, are toxic due either to the direct effect of plant compounds such as alkaloids or to the breakdown of compounds, such as glycosides, into harmful substances. External contact with plants such as stinging nettle or poison ivy can result in a painful skin rash — temporary in the case of nettles, more lasting and problematical with poison ivy.

Most of the toxic substances found in plants are secondary compounds, not involved in the primary functions such as respiration and photosynthesis. These compounds are most prevalent in the flowering plants and include alkaloids, glycosides, saponins, tannins, and resins.

Many poisonous plants have a history of medicinal use and it is often merely the degree of dosage that distinguishes medicinal from poisonous. Due to the highly unpredictable nature of active poisonous principles, the widespread use of many medicinal plants was abandoned over the years. Interestingly, some of the compounds are back in use today, though under more controlled circumstances.

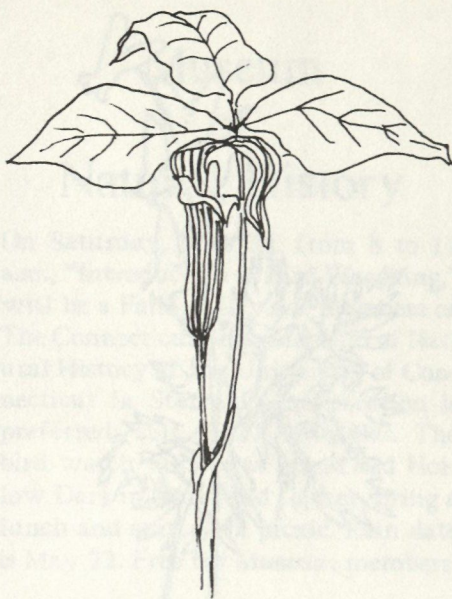
A COMMON spring flowering plant of Connecticut woodlands is jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema atrorubens*). This familiar perennial plant makes its appearance in early spring and grows to a height of one to two feet. Three stalks commonly rise from the underground corm. Two of these bear three leaflets each, which shade the stalk that bears the "pulpit." The pulpit itself is a green and brown striped spathe that curves to form a flap over the "jack," or spadix. The fruit ripens in late summer into showy red berries.

Although poisonous when eaten raw, this plant can be boiled in order to remove the toxin. Indians reportedly cooked the corms or dried them for the preparation of a starchy flour. This may account for the plant's other common name, "Indian turnip."

Jack-in-the-pulpit forms crystals of calcium oxalate which, if eaten, can lodge in the mucous membranes causing intense irritation. Symptoms include burning of the mouth and throat. Another name, "memory root," was apparently given to the plant by schoolboys who, when persuaded by friends to bite into the corn, never forgot its effect.

Although no records exist regarding human fatalities, death has been experimentally induced in animals. Handling jack-in-the-pulpit can cause dermatitis to sensitive individuals. As with any poisonous plants, jack-in-the-pulpit has a history of medicinal use. A tincture prepared from the corm was used as an expectorant.

DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES (*Dicentra cucullari*) bloom in rich woods in Connecticut and usually occur in fairly large groupings. The plant is aptly named, as its distinctive flowers resemble upside-down breeches hanging on a line. The finely-cut, fern-like leaves grow on long petioles which arise from a cluster of small white tubers. The inflorescence is a raceme of cream-colored flowers



Jack-in-the-pulpit
(*Arisaema atrorubens*)

tipped with yellow. Each flower has two sepals, four petals, and six stamens. The four petals are of differing size and shape, with the outer two enclosing the inner two. The generic name *Dicentra* comes from a Greek word meaning "two spurs," and the two spurs give the flowers their pantaloons-like appearance.

Dutchman's breeches contains a number of alkaloids, including protopine and cryptopine. Cryptopine is of interest as it is also obtained from opium.

Dutchman's breeches and other species of the same genus are toxic to livestock and are collectively known as "stagger-weeds" for the effect they produce. Symptoms among cattle are mild trembling, running back and forth with head held high, and collapse. While apparently bitter-tasting,

Dutchman's breeches is eaten by livestock when other food is scarce. Incidence of human poisoning is rare. Symptoms are similar to those produced in cattle and include trembling, staggering, labored breathing, and convulsions.

A PERENNIAL PLANT of wet woodlands, false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) first appears in the early spring. It is noted for its bright green, heavily ribbed leaves. The flowers, interesting when examined closely, are not particularly noticeable. False hellebore can grow to a height of six to eight feet. The unbranched stem bears numerous large leaves which grow alternately and decrease in size toward the inflorescence. The inflorescence itself is a panicle that can be over a foot long. The star-shaped yellowish green flowers appear during May.

This plant is often mistaken for skunk cabbage, as both emerge from the ground at the same time and in similar habitats. False hellebore has caused a number of human poisonings. Its bright green leaves are tempting and it looks as if it might be a delicious green for soup or salad. Disastrous results have befallen those who mistakenly gathered it for the salad bowl.

False hellebore contains a number of complex alkaloids that are toxic to humans and other animals. Some of these alkaloids have a marked effect on the circulatory system of humans, lowering blood pressure, and slowing the heart rate. Symptoms following ingestion of the plant include salivation, nausea, vomiting, slow pulse, and dangerously low blood pressure. Excessive doses can have a reverse effect, raising blood pressure to high levels and causing a rapid pulse.

PLANTS of the genus *Veratrum* have a long history of human use, both in Europe and the United States. An early American reference to the plant mentions the use of the root

as "an ordeal by the young Aborigines in the selection of their tribal chiefs. He whose stomach withstood its action the longest was decided to be the strongest of the party and entitled to command the rest."

Concoctions of the plant have been applied externally to treat scurvy and to control lice. It was also used as a depressor of the heart's action and an internal remedy in arthritic troubles. Medicinal use of this plant was abandoned for a time due to its lethal effects. However, a stable preparation is now available and is used today to reduce high blood pressure.

ANOTHER POISONOUS PLANT found in wetland habitats is blue flag, or wild iris (*Iris versicolor*). The showy iris flower brightens the margins of streams and marshes from mid-May into summer. Blue flag grows to a height of two to three feet. The round, smooth stems grow from thick horizontal rootstocks. Iris has sword-shaped, tapering leaves that are covered with a bluish-white bloom. The handsome flowers are deep blue, variegated with yellow and white. They are typical iris flowers with three spreading, petal-like sepals and three true petals. A three-sided capsule that often persists throughout the winter contains the seeds of blue flag.

The roots and leaves of this plant contain a resinous substance, irisin. Upon ingestion, this irritant can cause severe gastroenteritis. It is also harmful to the liver and pancreas. Preparations from the rhizome have been used medicinally as a strong purgative.

Poisoning of cattle has been reported, and it should be noted that wild iris is toxic both as a fresh plant and as hay, since the poisonous principle remains in dried plant material.

Although cases of human poisoning are rare, this plant is occasionally mistaken for sweetflag (*Acorus calamus*), a member of the arum family and a plant once used in candy-making. Any attempts to eat wild iris could have disastrous results. Such a



Dutchman's Breeches
(*Dicentra cucullaria*)

case of mistaken identity is not likely to occur more than once.

Some animals are not affected by the toxin. Blue flag rootstocks are eaten by muskrats and the seeds are consumed by a number of bird species.

AND, CERTAINLY, no discussion of poisonous plants would be complete without mention of poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Almost everyone encounters this plant sooner or later; the first thing to do is learn to recognize it. The axiom, "leaves of three, let it be," must have arisen because of poison ivy. Poison ivy is a vining plant that has alternate compound leaves of three leaflets each. In spring, when the vine first leafs out, the leaves are very shiny and have a reddish tinge. The fall leaves are red

and orange. The vine can even be recognized in winter due to the presence of aerial rootlets by which it attaches itself to trees, fences, and walls. Poison ivy grows all over Connecticut and seems to thrive along the coast, in pastures, waste places, and alluvial woodlands. Although it does flower in the spring, the yellow-green flowers are seldom noticed. The fruit is a small drupe that is white or cream-colored. It is enjoyed by a number of birds and this has contributed to the spread of the plant.

Contact with this plant will produce a severe skin rash accompanied by blisters. The degree of susceptibility varies widely among individuals; however, even those claiming immunity do best to avoid contact with the plant.

The poisonous properties of poison ivy are attributed to urushiol, a volatile oil. One must actually come into contact with the juice in order to get the characteristic rash. However, the juice can rub off on clothing, tools, or any object that comes into contact with the plant and then be transmitted to the victim. Symptoms usually appear within 24 hours of contact.

If you knowingly come into contact with the plant, washing thoroughly with a strong laundry soap may ward off subsequent inflammation. Once the rash is established, not much will hasten its disappearance. A baking soda solution may help relieve the itch. In severe cases, a physician should be consulted. The best treatment for poison ivy is to avoid contact in the first place.

THE ABOVE are but a sampling of the wild plants that contain compounds which give them strong, possibly lethal, properties. It may be tempting to gather wild plants for decoration or for consumption. However, one should know about the plants before giving way to the temptation. Wildflowers are, in most instances, best left in the wild to be enjoyed as they grow.

Planning and Zoning Course

The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service will once again sponsor the popular short course entitled "Planning and Zoning in Connecticut." This practical course on land use planning and regulation is designed for new elected or appointed land use officials.

The course will cover the following subjects: history and legal basis for land use planning in Connecticut, major components of a model plan of development, how to improve the planning process, subdivision regulations, history and legal basis for zoning in Connecticut, typical zoning regulations and required procedures, new zoning concepts, how to read maps, and how to review site plan and subdivision proposals. Instructors for the course are professional planners, engineers, attorneys, and university professors.

One-day courses will be held at the Greater Hartford UConn Campus, 1800 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, Friday, April 29; at Mohegan Community College, Mahan Drive, Norwich, Friday, May 6; at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Maple Street, Danielson, Friday, June 3; and at Coginchaug Regional High School, Route 17, Maiden Lane, Durham, Saturday, June 11. These sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run until 4:30 p.m.

The course fee is \$25.00 per person and covers all course materials. Registration may be restricted due to seating capacity or material availability. All registrations must be received five days prior to the workshop date.

Those interested in attending should contact Jim Gibbons or Marilyn Gowac at the Middlesex Extension Center in Haddam. Phone 345-4511 to obtain a reservation form. ■

Museum of Natural History

On Saturday, May 21, from 8 to 11 a.m., "Introduction to Bird Watching," will be a Family Day for members of The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at The University of Connecticut in Storrs. Pre-registration is preferred; call (203) 486-4460. The bird watch will be at Mansfield Hollow Dam in Mansfield Center. Bring a lunch and stay for a picnic. Rain date is May 22. Free for Museum members.

On Sunday, May 15, "Captain John Smith," a slide talk and booksigning by Karen Ordahl Kupperman, will be hosted by The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the UConn Co-op. Kupperman is professor of history at The University of Connecticut, and author of the new book, *Captain John Smith: A Select Edition of His Writings*. The event will be in the Benton Connection Gallery of the Jorgensen Auditorium Building at the University of Connecticut in Storrs at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. Free. For information, call (203) 486-4460. ■

Around the State

The month of May is not only one of the more beautiful months in Connecticut, but it also will be jam-packed with things to do and places to go. The following list was compiled by the Connecticut Department of Economic Development. Try it out. Take the kids.

May 1: Hamden -- 16th Annual Goldenbells Festival, celebrating the blossoming of the forsythia. Exhibitions, music, dance, concerts, special things for children, road races and much more. Contact: Chris Rendeiro, 5

Hill Top Rd., Hamden 06514. 248-3077.

7: South Glastonbury -- Spring Festival, Congregational Church, Main Street. Over 30 artisans offer quality hand-crafted items, including paintings, clothing, and other unique articles. Tea room, plant sales, and children's crafts room. 10-4. Contact: June Larson, 46 Stockade Rd., So. Glastonbury 06073. 659-0214.

7: West Hartford -- House and Garden Tour. An annual tour of homes in West Hartford. Contact: Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, 1045 Old Academy Rd., Fairfield 06430. 259-5596. Or Sandee Molden, Publicity Chairman. 335-0394.

10-15: Farmington -- 38th Annual Children's Services Horse Show and Country Fair, Polo Grounds, Town Farm Road. (off Rte. 4). One of the largest professional horse shows on the East Coast, with five rings, 1000 top competitors worldwide, country fair, midway, food, and more. Daily 8-5. \$5.00. Contact: Ethel Fried, Child and Family Services, Inc., 1680 Albany Ave., Hartford 06105. 236-4511 ext. 286.

12: Essex -- May Market, Town Park. Sale of flowers, plants, annual lunch in the park, homemade items, etc. Contact: Mrs. William Swartzbaugh, Chairman. 767-0782.

12-22: Killingly/Brooklyn -- Springtime Festival. Events include a parade, Mardi Gras Day, carnival, sport tournaments, cultural events, and beauty pageant. Contact: Betty Kuszaj, Director, Killingly/Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, 84 Main St., Danielson 06239. 774-8001.

13-15: New Haven -- 15th Annual International Fair '88, 406 Progress Street. A multi-national bazaar with food, entertainment, and products from all over the world. Contact: Gretchen Kingsley, 442 Temple St., P.O. Box 94A, New Haven 06520. 787-3531.

14, 15: Southington -- 14th Annual Red Cross Arts & Crafts Festival,

on the Green, Rte. 10. Outdoor arts and crafts show. 10-5. Contact: Betty Kroher or Tom Chute, Southington Red Cross, 53 W. Main St., Plantsville 06479. 628-2600. 755-1121.

15: New Preston — Eastern Association of Women's Rowing Colleges Championship Regatta. Lake Waramaug State Park. Largest women's college rowing event (crew) in the U.S., with approximately 600 college women competing. Heats 8:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m., finals 1:30 p.m.-4:40 p.m. Free. Contact: Christopher Combs, Chairman, Lake Waramaug Regatta Association, c/o The Inn on Lake Waramaug, New Preston 06777. 868-0563.

19-22: Hartford — 6th Annual Taste of Hartford. Constitution Plaza. More than 50 restaurants prepare and sell their specialties under tents. Also, local music, dance, magic, and comedy are performed on stages. Contact: Greater Hartford Convention and Visitors Bureau, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford 06103. 728-6789.

21: Mystic — A House and Garden Tour. Seven historic homes built between 1824 and 1854, restored, remodeled or renovated. Period music will be featured in many of the homes, gardens open for viewing, refreshments are included. 11-5. \$10, \$8.50 in advance. Contact: Susan Lund, Publicity. 739-7809, 536-8075.

21: Norwalk — 5th Annual Taylor Farm Antiques Fair. Taylor Farm Calf Pasture Road. Over 100 exhibitors from the northeast. 9-5. \$2.50. Contact: Ann Malloy, Success Promotions, 22 Warnecke Rd., Wilton 06897. 762-7031.

21: Rocky Hill — Kite Fair. Dinosaur State Park. Contact: Richard Krueger or Brenda Sauer, Dinosaur State Park, West St., Rocky Hill 06067. 529-8423.

21: Windsor — 34th Annual Shad Derby Festival. On the Town Green. Food, crafts, and exhibits; parade beginning at 2 p.m. Contact: Michael Rabbitt, c/o Rabbitt Insurance Agency,

78 Maple Ave., Windsor 06095. 688-1303.

21: Woodbridge — 16th Annual Antiques Festival. On the Village Green. Over 100 exhibitors offering antique furniture and decorative accessories. 10-4. \$2. Contact: Betty Forbes or Linda Turner, 135 Forbes Street., East Hartford 06108. 528-0322
21, 22: Greenwich — 3rd Annual Outdoors Crafts Festival. Bruce Museum. Craftspeople from all over the U.S. exhibit and sell their products, live entertainment. 11-5. Contact: Anne von Stuepfnagel, The Bruce Museum, Museum Dr., Greenwich 06830. 869-0376

21, 22: Milford — 26th Annual Meet the Artists and Artisans. Milford Green. Over 200 juried artists and artisans. 10-5. Admission and parking free. Contact: Dennis Morris Curt, 41 Green Street, Milford 06460. 874-5672.

21, 22: New Haven — 113th Annual Bonsai Show. Edgerton Garden Center, 145 Edge Hill Road. Display of 75-100 bonsai, sale of starter plants and pots, also plants can be styled and potted. 10:30 - 4:30. Donation \$1. Contact: Eric Carlson, Jr., 17 Brightwood Lane, West Hartford 06110. 527-7287, 521-0165.

21, 22: Woodstock — 2nd Annual Horticulture Exposition at Roseland Cottage. On the Common, Rte. 169. Exhibits and demonstrations by garden and horticulture professionals. 10-5. \$2.50. Contact: Charlene Perkins Brown, Roseland Cottage, Box 186, Woodstock 06281. 928-4074.

28, 29: Bristol — Balloons Over Bristol. Bristol Eastern High School, West St. Hot air balloon event with first flight 6 a.m. and then 6 p.m. Contact: Brian Boland, Pine Dr., RFD #2, Burlington 06013. 673-1307.

28, 29: East Haven — "100th Year Celebration of the Trolley Car." Shoreline Trolley Museum. The opening ceremony of the Centenary Exhibit with a parade of the trolleys and trolley rides. 11-5. Adults \$3.50, senior citizens \$2.50. Contact: Gareth D.

Thorne, Shoreline Trolley Museum, 17 River St., East Haven 06512. 467-6927.
28, 29: Hartford/West Hartford — 8th Annual Bonsai Show. Elizabeth Park Pond House, Asylum Ave. Display of over 100 bonsai, demonstrations of styling, books, and other related material. 10-5. Donation \$1. Contact: Eric Carlson Jr., 17 Brightwood Lane, West Hartford 06110. 527-7287, 521-0165.

28, 29: Westport — 22nd Annual Westport Handcraft Show. Staples High School, 70 North Ave. A juried show consisting of 130 of the finest craftspeople in the U. S. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. \$4 Contact: Fenton Barnes, 21 Deer Run Trail, Weston 06883. 227-9318, 454-0313.

28, 30: Mystic — 7th Annual Lobster Festival at Mystic Seaport Museum. An outdoor food fest under tents featuring native lobster and other foods served along the waterfront. Sea chantey entertainment. 11-3. Contact: Public Affairs, Mystic Seaport Museum, PO Box 6000, Mystic 06355. 572-0711 ext. 318.

30: Fairfield — 11th Annual Memorial Day Outdoor Antiques Show. Beach Rd. and Old Post Rd. 100 dealers. 10-5. \$2.50. Contact: Dorothy Justinus, Box 1019, Southport 06490. 259-8706. ■

Fishamania

Fishamania II is set for May 14 and 15, 1988, on Lake Candlewood and Squantz Pond. Sponsored by the Greater Bridgeport Bassmasters, it should prove to be the largest freshwater derby in the state of Connecticut. Proceeds will benefit the Connecticut Special Olympics.

There is a \$500 award for the largest game fish caught, plus awards for the top three largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout, and pan fish. There is also a \$50 bonus for the largest fish caught by a woman, a physically disabled person, and a senior citizen.

There will be over \$500.00 worth

of door prizes each day. There will be instructional fishing seminars by the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation. The DEP will also sponsor an instructional clinic for the Special Olympiads. The Connecticut "Turn-in-Poachers" van will be there, too.

All this for a low \$10 entry fee (\$3 for persons under 16 years of age). You may register at any of these tackle shops: Valley Angler, Danbury; Stratford Bait & Tackle, Stratford; Garrison's Firearms, Brookfield; Ted's Bait & Tackle, Bridgeport; American Sport

Center, North Haven; Fishin' Factory, Meriden; Fishin' Factory Too, Wallingford; Fishin' Hole, Fairfield; Sportsmens Rendezvous, Milford; Sportsworld, Monroe; and Ed's Bait & Sport, Newtown. No on-site registration.

For more information, call Frank McKane 371-6615; John Tucker 576-6743 or Rich Reid 259-6607. You can write or register by mail -- make checks payable to "Fishamania" c/o The Greater Bridgeport Bassmasters, P.O. Box 5274, Bridgeport, CT 06610.

FYI

(Continued from page 16.)

disposal ban on certain waste types, waste minimization, the transfer bill, and the state and federal superfund program. Speakers will come from the Service and the DEP.

The cost of the conference is \$25.00 including materials and lunch. Please contact the Information and Education Unit of the DEP, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; or call (203)566-3489 for more information.

The Night Sky

What Are You Doing for the Blue Moon?

by
Francine Jackson

IF YOU LOOK AT ANY CALENDAR for May, you may have noticed something unusual: This month, we are having two full moons. On Sunday, May 1, the normal full moon, called the Planting or Milk Moon, will shine overhead. But on Tuesday, May 31, there will be a second one, called the Blue Moon.

Contrary to the names of other full moons, which have relevance to the month in which they occur, "Blue Moon" is given to the second full moon in a month whenever it occurs during the year. But, where this terminology came from is anyone's guess. We often use the term in a phrase meaning "rarely" ("once in a blue moon"), but determining if the phrase or the name came first is analogous to the chicken-or-egg question.

At times, the moon does seem to look different from its normal whitish appearance, but this color is usually a reddish tinge, especially when it is rising or during a total lu-



nar eclipse. But a blue tint -- these sightings are extremely rare, and are often unexplained. It is thought that the last true sighting of a "bluish moon" was last century, when the dust from the eruption of Krakatoa gave the moon (and just about everything else in the atmosphere) a slight blue-green tinge. Other than that, to say the moon is blue is as scientific as stating it is made of cheese.

Blue moons aren't as rare as they are made out to be. Because a full moon occurs about every 29 1/2 days, or about 12 1/3 times per year, we are due to have a month with two full moons about every 2 3/4 years, not nearly as rarely as "once in a blue moon" would seem to imply.

Endnote

"Our day-to-day concern is the shimmering network of gift-exchange, the ceremonies of life; energy; transformation. Our concern is the kids sleeping in the back room, snow on the far hills, a coyote howling in the sagebrush moonlight."

Gary Snyder



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